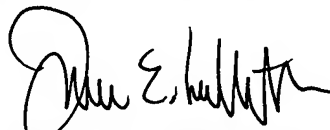


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment eliminates the multiple dependent claim status of claim 3 in order to avoid the multiple dependent claim surcharge. New claim 31 recaptures the subject matter in the amended claim.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 22, 2005

JEL/spp

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